

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Toronto 'Peoples' Tribunal and Assembly'  
demands 'Free the Cuban Five!'

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 76/NO. 37 OCTOBER 15, 2012

## More readers join effort to win new subscribers

BY LOUIS MARTIN

*Militant* readers are responding to the paper's call to take part in the big international subscription campaign getting under way aimed at expanding readership of the socialist news-weekly among working people.

The backbone of the effort will be selling the paper door to door in

### READERS ORGANIZE TO SPREAD 'MILITANT' FAR AND WIDE

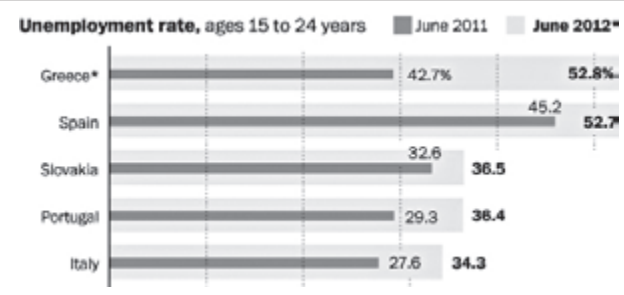
working-class neighborhoods in big cities, small towns and rural areas. This is the most effective way to talk with a broad cross-section of working people on the socialist paper's fighting perspective and win new readers to help get the paper around.

A key component of the drive will be talking about and winning support for the fight to free five Cuban revolutionaries jailed in the U.S. on trumped-up charges for their defense

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## Greek cabinet votes for new round of deep cuts

Production, trade, jobs contract in Europe



BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

"I have participated in strikes and marches for over two years now. Governments have changed but the attacks continue," Vangelis Anastopoulos, a sanitation worker, told the *Militant* at a protest of more

than 50,000 people in Athens Sept. 26. Tens of thousands of others joined rallies and marches across the country that day as part of a nationwide strike against the government's latest round of cuts.

In Greece, which has been in recession over the last five years, working people face some of the sharpest attacks. In exchange for loans from the so-called troika—the European Central Bank, European Commission and International Monetary Fund—the Greek government has imposed

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## US to UK: 'Fight for massive jobs program!'

BY ALEX XEZONAKIS  
AND ANNE HOWIE

LONDON—James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, began a tour of the United Kingdom amid signs of deepening economic contraction throughout Europe.

### SOCIALIST US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE TOURS UK

"Persistently high unemployment is a problem here and throughout much of the world, and yet no capitalist government is putting forward a real jobs program of any kind," Harris told participants at a campaign meeting here Sept. 28.

"The rulers don't see the unemployment crisis as their crisis—for them it's a profit crisis. That's why we need to fight for a massive jobs program, funded by the government, that could put millions back to work at union scale wages, to build the homes, schools, hospitals and roads that workers need."

Demonstrations had recently taken place in Greece and Spain—where unemployment for youth is more than 50 percent—demanding an end to government "austerity" programs.

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## S. Africa miners' victory inspires strikes by other miners, truckers



Reuters/Rogan Ward

Striking truck drivers march in Durban, South Africa, Sept. 26. Victorious strike by platinum miners has sparked other strikes involving some 100,000 workers across the country.

BY SETH GALINSKY

The victory by South African rock drillers, who won a 22 percent wage increase Sept. 18 at Lonmin's Marikana platinum mine in the country's North West province, continues to reverberate. Some 75,000 gold, chrome, platinum and coal miners have joined wildcat strikes that are spreading to other provinces. And 28,000 truck drivers went on strike

throughout the country Sept. 25 demanding a 12 percent pay hike.

"The cost of living is very high, the cost of transportation, accommodation, food and health is very high and living conditions and public services for the working class are pathetic," Vincent Masoga, spokesperson for the South African Transport and Allied Workers Union, which organizes the

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## Thousands of workers clash with guards at iPhone plant in China

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Thousands of workers clashed with security guards at Foxconn Technology Group's massive industrial complex in the northern Chinese city of Taiyuan all night and into the morning of Sept. 24. Company abuse, onerous working conditions and a production drive brought tensions to a high pitch when employees responded to seeing a company guard beat one of their coworkers.

The Taiyuan factory employs 79,000 workers and produces Apple's iPhone 5, which has just hit the markets worldwide. Apple expects to offload 33 million units during the first production quarter. For workers this means "a peak period" with increased line speed and safety hazards in addition to massive overtime.

The confrontation broke out in company living quarters of the massive plant where the workers reside in dormitories—eight to 12 workers per room.

After security guards dragged a

worker into a van and started beating him at around 11 p.m., others came to his aid and the incident quickly grew into a battle involving some 2,000 workers and hundreds of security guards that lasted through the night. By 9 a.m. the following morning the guards had been chased away. Forty workers were taken to the hospital,

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# Activists fight FBI probes, refuse grand jury subpoenas

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Matthew Duran—one of four anarchists in the Northwest who have refused to testify before a grand jury and maintain they are being targeted for their political beliefs—was jailed Sept. 13. Supporters of political rights have linked the case to the ongoing fight against nearly two dozen grand jury subpoenas of political activists in the Midwest.

A total of five people in Seattle and Olympia, Wash.; and Portland, Ore., have been subpoenaed. One has agreed to testify at a grand jury hearing, in which the secret judicial body decides whether to file indictments in the absence of defense attorneys. In July, homes of the five were raided by agents of the FBI and the Joint Terrorism Task Force. They seized computers, clothing and literature.

The FBI claims the arrest and subpoenas are part of “an ongoing investigation involving a violent crime” related to May Day protests in Seattle this year.

Leah-Lynn Plante, of Portland, Ore., is among those who have refused to testify. Plante was called to hearings Aug. 2 and then again Sept. 13. She gave her name and date of birth, but would not say anything further.

The case is similar to what happened in the Midwest in September 2010. FBI agents searched homes in Minneapolis and Chicago as part of “an ongoing Joint Terrorism Task Force investigation into activities concerning the material support of terrorism,” said FBI spokesman Steve

Warfield to the Associated Press.

Among records the FBI specified it was seeking were payments made to Hatem Abudayyeh, executive director of the Chicago-based Arab American Action Network. Agents spent most of a whole day in the home of Joe Isobaker and Stephanie Weiner and left with cellphones and 30 boxes of papers dating back to the 1970s. Weiner and Isobaker have for many years been active in anti-war protests and support for labor.

In Minneapolis, one of those whose home was searched was Mick Kelly. The FBI’s stated goal was to document any travel he might have done to the Middle East and Colombia in connection with his work for the Freedom Road Socialist Organization.

Twenty-three activists were subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury in Chicago. All have refused to testify.

The investigation is ongoing as of September 2012. Many documents relating to the case are under seal and will remain unavailable to the defendants’ attorneys pending completion of the investigation, Bruce Nestor, one of the lawyers, told the Committee to Stop FBI Repression.

More than 200 community organizations and activist groups have signed a letter of support for those targeted by the FBI in the Midwest and Northwest. Protests took place on the two-year anniversary of the Midwest raids in several cities. A demonstration outside FBI’s national headquarters in Washington, D.C., was held Sept. 24 calling for an end to the probes.



FightBackNews

Some 200 protesters rally outside the Federal Building in Minneapolis Sept. 24 to demand end to Justice Department probe and threat of arrest of antiwar activists there and in Chicago and Michigan. Twenty-three activists have refused to answer subpoenas to appear before a grand jury set up to probe “material support for designated terrorist organizations.”

## ‘Blood money’ donated to Socialist Workers Party

Tony Lane in Minneapolis recently contributed \$65.56 in blood money from a safety bonus in the steel warehouse where he works.

Blood money is a term class-conscious workers use to describe “bonuses” and other bribes from the bosses that are designed to hoodwink us into accepting speedup, wage cuts, concession contracts and dangerous working conditions.

“It’s a good way to divide us,” Lane noted. “The bonus is done as a percentage of your gross. That makes workers who are on top tier—workers who have been there longer—hungrier for it.”

Lane reported how this was reflected in a discussion after the newest worker on the shift got some treatment for a repetitive motion injury. One coworker who had been there longer came up to him and said, “There goes our safety bonus!”

“Talking about that was useful to get some discussion on the safety bonus system and who has to be responsible for safety,” Lane concluded.

Tom Baumann, a warehouse worker in Miami, sent in a check for \$251.69 coming from a “gain-share” bonus. He described how a fellow worker got a large bump on his eye from being hit by the hook of a hoist but didn’t report it. The bosses end up blaming you anyway, the coworker said, and in addition make you take demeaning drug tests.

Another fellow worker got fired for supposedly making too many mistakes. “He had begun to develop a limp and most workers think he was fired because they didn’t want him to claim disability,” Baumann said.

“When I explained to one fellow worker, who is on permanent light duty due to hurting his back on the job, that I will give my bonus to the communist movement, his response was ‘right on!’”

The blood money contributions are one of the pillars of the Socialist Workers Party Capital Fund. To make a donation, contact distributors on page 8.

—EMMA JOHNSON

# THE MILITANT

*No worker has to die on the job!*

*Workers from China to California are protesting against unsafe conditions on the job, fighting to gain control over working conditions against the bosses’ speedup and disregard for safety. The ‘Militant’ covers these fights of workers around the globe.*

Militant/Bill Arth  
Calif. warehouse workers protest unsafe working conditions in Los Angeles Sept. 18.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*’s views. These are expressed in editorials.



# South Africa strikes spread

Continued from front page

drivers, told the *Militant* in a phone interview Sept. 29. “The challenges of the miners and the truck drivers are the same.”

The Lonmin miners’ strike was “an unprotected [wildcat] strike,” Masoga said. “It did not have any impact on our strike, which is a protected [legal] one. But because they won a double-digit wage increase it has made it clear that it is possible to get a decent wage.”

The South African daily *Business Day Live* reported Sept. 28 that more than 40 percent of the country’s gold mines are shut down from the wildcat strikes.

Some 400 strikers at the Samancor Chrome mine in Rustenburg, in the North West province, began an underground sit-in Sept. 27 to demand a basic salary of 12,500 rand (\$1,500) a month. Mametlwe Sebei, a spokesperson for the miners’ committee, told the *Mail and Guardian* that management had closed off the water supply “in an apparent move to starve and dry out the workers.”

The workers ended their sit-in the next day, but vowed to continue the fight for higher wages.

The bosses at the Gold Fields Mine in Carletonville evicted 2,000 striking miners from company housing. The workers reassembled on a hill near the mine entrance with few belongings but the clothes on their backs, still refusing to go back to work.

The workers were using their residences “as a base to plan and coordinate unlawful and life threatening activities in support of the illegal strike,” Gold Fields spokesperson Sven Lunsche complained to Fin24, a South African news agency.

The strikes at Anglo American Platinum spread to another one of its mines Oct. 2, this time in Limpopo province. The company is threatening to fire the strikers.

Some of the mining companies say

that if they give in to the wage demands they will have to close down some of the mines. “It would mean job losses,” AngloGold chief executive Mark Cutifani told the London *Financial Times*, claiming the industry was losing money and was on a “knife edge.”

Zwelinzima Vavi, general secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, blamed concessions by the mine bosses for the surge in wildcat strikes. He told *Business Day Live* it was a “grave error” to give in to the workers’ demands outside the contracts and negotiating process previously agreed to by the leadership of the National Union of Mineworkers.

The strikers have ignored pleas from the NUM leadership and other mine union officials to go back to work.

Meanwhile, a government commission appointed by President Jacob Zuma after widespread public outrage over the Aug. 16 slaughter of 34 Lonmin strikers by police at the Marikana mine began its investigation. The outcry had increased support for the strike.

When the commission visited the massacre site, nearby residents marched to the scene singing and chanting and carrying signs that said, “Don’t let the police get away with murder.”

## Black workers in Chicago march for jobs



Militant/Laura Anderson

CHICAGO—More than 1,000 Black workers, young and old, marched on a construction site on the South Side here Sept. 30, demanding an end to racist hiring practices where new Meijer and Menards stores are being built.

“I’ve been out of work for two-and-a-half years. Something’s got to change,” said Brian Essex, among the hundreds of unemployed union construction workers who turned out for the protest.

Construction is one of the industries hardest hit by the capitalist crisis. Like many other jobs, Blacks tend to be the last hired and first fired. Chicago’s rate of Black unemployment stands officially at 19 percent, third highest in the country.

—LAURA ANDERSON AND BETSY FARLEY

# Readers join effort to win new subscribers

Continued from front page

of the Cuban Revolution.

This effort will center on selling *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free* by Mary-Alice Waters and Martín Koppel. It is one of four books offered at reduced prices with a subscription to the paper. The others are *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*; *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism*; and *Women*

*in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*. (See ad on page 3.)

“At one door,” recounts Robert Beal about going door to door in a farm-workers neighborhood in Wenatchee, Wash., “we talked with the three generations of a Latino family.

“In the end, it was the high school student, a young woman, who bought the subscription. She said she thought change was needed. ‘I don’t really go for [incumbent presidential candidate] Obama. He promised changes and didn’t do that.’”

Beal and another subscriber from Yakima, Wash., joined *Militant* supporters from Seattle in Wenatchee, in their first experience selling the paper door to door in a working-class community.

Wenatchee is a fruit-growing area of eastern Washington where for days forest fires have burned. The smoke has caused school closings, as well as air quality and breathing issues.

“Nevertheless the orchard owners and packing warehouse bosses demand the fruits be picked and packed by the mainly immigrant workers, who have been given inadequate paper masks,” wrote Mary Martin from Seattle.

Over a day of talking to native-born and immigrant workers in discussions ranging from the war in Afghanistan to the need for legalization of all immigrant workers, the team sold eight *Militant* subscriptions and 15 copies of the paper, as well as two copies of the book on the Cuban Five.

From Los Angeles, Ellie García reported that new *Militant* subscriber Jesus Landeros, 17, brought two high school friends as they teamed up with *Militant* supporters Sept. 29 at a rally demanding that California Gov. Jerry Brown sign a so-called Trust Act into law.

Landeros subscribed to the *Militant* at a recent campaign event with James

Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president.

The Trust Act would have set some limits on the implementation of Washington’s anti-immigrant “Secure Communities” program, under which the fingerprints of every person booked into custody are sent to the Department of Homeland Security to be checked against its database, setting them up for deportation. Brown vetoed the law Sept. 30.

“I felt good to talk to people, to get them to open up, to raise their class consciousness,” said Landeros. *Militant* supporters at the rally ended up selling nine subscriptions and 26 single copies of the paper, as well as 13 copies of the four books on special.

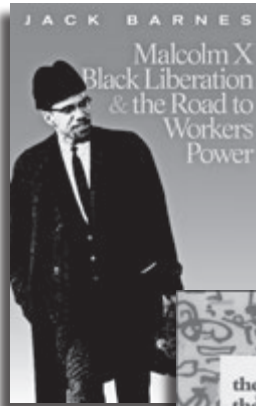
In the car on the way back from the rally, a discussion broke out on *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, which Landeros had just bought. The three students spoke about “the lousy education they and their family members are getting, as they are just trying to get through school,” wrote García in a note she sent on the sale. “As a result, a class was organized to study the book for the next weekend.”

Members of the Revolutionary Socialist Alliance who subscribe to the paper set up a literature table in the Student Union at the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg, Texas, before and after a meeting they organized for Steve Warshell from Houston, SWP candidate for Congress in the 18th District.

Joined by supporters of the SWP campaign from Houston, they sold 11 subscriptions to the *Militant*, as well as several copies of the books on special offer. (See article on page 4.)

This weekly column needs your comments, quotes, reports, suggestions, photos. Send them by 9:00 a.m. each Monday EDT.

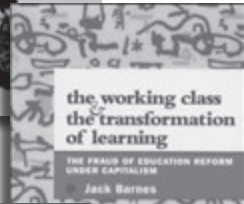
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articles and interviews from the *Militant*

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See distributors  
on page 8



# Socialist candidate tours UK

Continued from front page

“Workers in the U.K. face the longest slump in over a century with rising competition for jobs,” said Paul Davies, a member of the Communist League, who joined Harris on the platform. “Unemployment across the eurozone countries rose to a fresh high of 18.2 million in August. In the U.K. a record number work part time because they cannot find full-time jobs.”

Manufacturing in the U.K. contracted in September for the third month in a row, with orders falling from both Asia and the European Union.

“We represent a family fighting for justice,” Justin Waldron, a relative of Roger Sylvester, who was killed in police custody in 1999, told the meeting. Waldron came along with Sylvester’s father and uncle. “I suspect the same thing that happened to Roger happens in the U.S.”

“Yes, exactly the same happens in the U.S.,” Harris replied. “The police just shot dead a wheelchair-bound double amputee, Brian Claunch, in Texas. They said he threatened them with a pen.”

“Faced with all this, how do you mobilize people?” asked Waldron. “There is so much in our way to stop us. It’s an immense task, for the working class to elevate ourselves to that level.”

“You’re right, it will take millions of us to do it,” Harris responded. “Fights by working people will occur because of what capitalism itself brings on us. Cops exist to protect the interests of the capitalist class, to keep you in fear and ensure you don’t fight back. That’s why they get away with murder.

“Ultimately, the working class has to take political power, make a revolution. Because all steps forward will be pushed back without doing that.”

Earlier the same day, Harris met with 15 workers at a café during the shift change at the McVities biscuit factory in Harlesden in West London.

“The only people who are going to change things for us is us. The biggest obstacle we face is that we don’t believe we can do it,” Emmanuel Nyugap told Harris.

“That’s right,” replied Harris. “Like

the South African miners. They went on strike, 34 of them were shot down. They carried on fighting despite the fact that officials of both trade unions, the National Union of Mineworkers and the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union, told them to go back to work. And they won. They showed us that the miners *are* the union.

“This is a glimpse of how real political change happens,” Harris added. “Not from the benevolence of the bosses and their government, but because working people begin to organize to push forward together. This is the biggest thing our campaign explains.”

“People around the world have common values, but without being organized this crisis will go on forever,” Teame Berne, who has worked at the plant for eight years, noted. “So what would you do if you were elected?”

“We make no promises,” replied



Militant/Anne Howie

During his visit to United Kingdom, James Harris (right), SWP candidate for U.S. president, met at café with workers from McVities biscuit factory in West London during shift change. “The only people who are going to change things for us is us,” Emmanuel Nyugap told Harris.

Harris. “Any politician who does is lying to you. The only thing that makes change is mass struggle. For example, when Nelson Mandela was elected

it was a great thing. But that election was only significant because masses of workers made a revolution first, they overthrew apartheid.”

## Texas student club organizes meeting for SWP candidate

BY ROBERT DEES

EDINBURG, Texas—“You should get the *Militant* paper every week,” Christy Mendoza explained to a fellow student at the University of Texas-Pan American here. “It’s for people like us, for working people.”

Members of the Revolutionary Socialist Alliance, a newly formed campus club at the university, joined with Socialist Workers Party campaign supporters at a literature table in the Student Union selling the *Militant* and urging people to come to the first meeting of their group where the featured speaker was Steve Warshell, SWP candidate for Congress in the 18th District from Houston.

Pan American is known for an overwhelmingly working-class student body. More than 85 percent are Mexican or Chicano and over 80 percent receive financial aid.

“We aren’t interested in reforming a capitalist system, we are interested in replacing it completely,” Roxanne Carrion, one of the central organizers of the event, told the *Militant*. “Our goal is to spark political discussion on campus that’s outside of the two-party

system.”

Carrion explained that she was introduced to the *Militant* by UTPA instructor David Anshen, who had taken a small bundle to show around at Occupy McAllen actions.

“I liked the information inside and I identified with the working class point of view, so I subscribed and started to show it around to friends of mine involved in a socialist discussion group,” Carrion said. “When we formed the club two weeks ago, we contacted the SWP for a speaker to give a revolutionary viewpoint.”

“The lives of hundreds of millions worldwide are being devastated by a crisis the likes of which we have never seen before,” Warshell told the meeting.

“Capitalism is functioning the only way it can; the crisis is a product of its natural and lawful workings,” he added.

The socialist candidate outlined the gains of the Cuban Revolution and the U.S. government frame-up of the Cuban Five. “The railroading of the Cuban Five was one more attempt by the U.S. billionaire class to punish

revolutionary Cuba for having the audacity to make a socialist revolution and set an example for working people worldwide fighting against exploitation and oppression.”

The socialist candidate urged everyone to join in explaining how defending the five is also a defense of democratic rights here in the United States. “Winning their freedom will be a victory for all working people,” he said.

Some 45 people packed into the room Sept. 25, and more stood in the hallway to hear the talk and participate in the discussion, which continued for three hours until the building closed.

A literature table staffed by students and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party campaign sold 11 subscriptions to the *Militant*, along with three copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*; three copies of *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*; two copies of *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*; and three copies of *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*.

Students and campaigners met to continue the discussion until midnight at a nearby restaurant. A number of them decided to take extra copies of the *Militant* and a package of sub cards to win new readers.

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### CALIFORNIA

#### San Francisco

**Defend the Cuban 5!** Panel of speakers, including Betsey Stone, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

### FLORIDA

#### Miami

**The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free.** Speakers: Dean Hazlewood, Socialist Workers Party; others. Thurs., Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 719 NE 79th St. Tel.: (305) 757-8869.

### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

**Free the Cuban 5: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free.** Speakers: Asha A. Samad, SAFRAD Somali Association and Human Rights Center; César Sánchez, activist in fight to free Cuban 5; Rebecca Williamson, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m. 307 W. 36th St., 10th floor. Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

## Socialist Workers candidates across US

### California

Gerardo Sánchez, US Senate  
Carole Lesnick, Congress, 12th CD  
Arlene Rubinstein, Congress, 33rd CD  
Ellie García, Congress, 34th CD

### Florida

Naomi Craine, US Senate  
Tom Baumann, Congress, 17th CD  
Anthony Dutrow, Congress, 20th CD  
Dean Hazlewood, State Atty, District 11

### Georgia

Rachele Fruit, Congress, 4th CD  
John Benson, Congress, 5th CD

### Illinois

John Hawkins, Congress, 1st CD  
Laura Anderson, Congress, 3rd CD  
Dennis Richter, Congress, 7th CD  
Alyson Kennedy, Cook County Atty

### Iowa

David Rosenfeld, Congress, 3rd CD  
Maggie Trowe, State Senate, District 18  
Helen Meyers, Iowa House, District 36

### Massachusetts

Laura Garza, US Senate

### Minnesota

Frank Forrestal, US Senate  
Tony Lane, Congress, 5th CD

### Nebraska

Joe Swanson, US Senate  
Callie Miaoulis, 29th District Neb. Legis.

### New York

Róger Calero, US Senate  
Seth Galinsky, Congress, 8th CD  
Deborah Liatos, Congress, 13th CD  
Nancy Boyasko, Congress, 15th CD

### Pennsylvania

Osborne Hart, US Senate  
Chris Hoeppner, Congress, 1st CD

### Texas

Jacquie Henderson, US Senate  
Steve Warshell, Congress, 18th CD  
Cindy Jaquith, Congress, 19th CD  
Mike Fitzsimmons, Congress, 29th CD

### Washington

Mary Martin, Governor  
John Naubert, US Senate

### Washington, DC

Omari Musa, Delegate, US House of Rep.

## Literature on SWP presidential campaign



Campaign flyer: \$2.50 for 25  
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New York, NY 10018. Tel: (212) 736-2540;  
email: socworknatlcamp@sbcglobal.net



# White House tightens squeeze on workers without papers

BY SETH GALINSKY

Department of Homeland Security figures for fiscal year 2011 show how the Barack Obama administration has continued to step up its criminalization and marginalization of immigrant workers without papers.

Among the measures: jailing record numbers of workers solely for immigration violations—mostly for entering the country illegally—and record-high “removals,” the type of deportation in which those who return risk possible felony charges.

These attacks are taking place even as the number of undocumented immigrants attempting to enter the U.S. has declined due to stepped-up enforcement, high unemployment and obstacles to working as a result of expansion of the government’s E-Verify program, which presses employers to check job applicants’ work authorization online. The Department of Homeland Security doubled the number of cops at the border with Mexico from 2004 to 2010.

The 641,633 apprehensions by immigration cops in 2011 were the lowest since 1972.

But this hasn’t stopped the U.S. government from tightening the screws even more.

The application of increased sanctions for undocumented workers who are caught by immigration cops began in the late 1990s and has skyrocketed under the Obama administration.

For most of the last 40 years less than 10 percent of those picked up by immigration cops were given removal orders. Instead, they were deported under a category known as “voluntary departure,” even though there was nothing voluntary about it. While overall deportations, including “voluntary departures,” are at the lowest level since 1973, more than 50 percent of those deported from the U.S. last year were issued *removal* orders either by a judge or by immigration agents.

Those deported under a removal order can face misdemeanor or felony charges if they return to the U.S., with sentences ranging from 180 days to 20 years in prison.

In 1992, the Immigration and Naturalization Service turned over 7,122 immigrants for prosecution on immigration violations. By 2010 that figure had jumped more than a hundredfold to 84,606, mostly for “illegal entry” or “illegal reentry.”

Along some border areas that the Department of Homeland Security considers “high-traffic areas” almost 100 percent of those stopped by immigration cops are prosecuted under “Operation Streamline.”

The U.S. government is not seeking to stop immigrants from entering the U.S., but to increase its control of the flow of undocumented labor from Mexico and around the world. Many U.S. corporations depend on immigrant labor to push down wages and to compete more effectively against their rivals around the world.

But with unemployment at high levels and competition for jobs heightened, a lot of bosses are able to fill many of their labor needs without employing as many undocumented workers.

Agribusiness owners, however, who depend heavily on undocumented workers, are complaining that stepped-up enforcement and harsher anti-immigrant laws in several states are causing a labor shortage.

According to *Time* magazine, roughly 70 percent of the 1.2 million farmworkers in the United States are undocumented. In its Sept. 21 issue the magazine reports that in Washington state, 10 percent of the crops last year were left to rot on the vine because of “acute labor shortages.”

State governments and politicians in several states, including California, Oklahoma, Vermont and Texas, are pushing for expanded “guest worker” programs. Under these programs boss-

## Calif.: Rally protests E-Verify at Mi Pueblo stores



Eriberto Fernandez

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Holding signs saying, “NO to E-Verify,” and “Mi Pueblo: Stop Abusing Immigrant Workers,” more than 80 protesters marched and rallied here Sept. 26 in front of Mi Pueblo’s flagship grocery store.

The protest, organized by Local 5 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, the Interfaith Council on Economics and Justice, and other groups, was organized in response to the move by Juvenal Chavez, owner of the Mi Pueblo chain of grocery stores, to enroll in the E-Verify program to check the immigration status of new hires.

The Mi Pueblo supermarket chain includes 21 outlets in the Bay Area, Salinas and the central San Joaquin Valley. The company claims that with its continuing expansion, it is coming under pressure from Homeland Security to implement the government’s E-Verify system.

A flyer passed out at the protest called for a boycott of Mi Pueblo stores. Mi Pueblo management has a history of firing workers who have supported attempts to unionize the stores.

“When they wanted one of us to do the job of three, they would say, ‘we’re family, we can do it,’” said Rogelio Marquez, a former Mi Pueblo worker. “But they didn’t treat us as family.”

—BETSEY STONE

es would “legally” bring in immigrant workers for a year or two with barely more rights than those without papers.

Meanwhile, so far some 82,000 undocumented youth have applied for a temporary permit that would allow them to live and work without fear of deportation for two years under a change in Immigration and Customs Enforcement guidelines announced by Obama in June.

To qualify they have to be between 15 and 30 years old, lived in the U.S. for at least five years and arrived before they were 16, and be in school, a high

school graduate or a U.S. military veteran. They also have to pay a \$465 application fee and pass a criminal background check. As many as 1.7 million people are estimated to be eligible.

In August the White House ruled that young people who receive the permits are not eligible for Medicaid or other government-subsidized health insurance.

Even more so than the increasingly common executive orders issued by Obama that bypass Congress, the new “deferred action” can be revoked at any time.

## New International no. 12 “Capitalism’s Long Hot Winter Has Begun” by Jack Barnes



Today’s accelerating global capitalist slump accompanies a continuation of the most far-reaching shift in Washington’s military policy and organization since the U.S. buildup toward World War II. Class-struggle-minded working people must face this historic turning point for imperialism, and chart a revolutionary course to confront it.

## New International no. 13 “Our Politics Start with the World” by Jack Barnes



The huge economic and cultural inequalities between imperialist and semicolonial countries, and among classes within almost every country, are produced and accentuated by the workings of capitalism. For vanguard workers to build parties able to lead a successful revolutionary struggle for power in our own countries, our activity must be guided by a strategy to close this gap.

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## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 16, 1987

Recent revelations offer startling new evidence of decades of government spying on the nation’s most illustrious novelists, playwrights, poets, and literary critics. The known list of those victimized includes such figures as Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, Sinclair Lewis, John Steinbeck, Thornton Wilder, Tennessee Williams, Pearl Buck, E.L. Doctorow, Eugene O’Neil, William Saroyan, and Thomas Wolfe.

Virtually every winner of the Nobel Prize for literature has been on the government’s list of suspects.

Most of the secret dossiers were compiled by the FBI. Others were the work of the CIA, the State Department, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and army intelligence.

The new disclosures underline how broadly the government cast its net in its unrelenting drive to record and, where possible, curb dissenting views and activity.



October 15, 1962

NEW YORK—“Despite the barrage of propaganda by all the major news media in the country, designed to whip up a war hysteria against Cuba, only a minority of the American people favor U.S. military intervention against that country,” said Carl Feingold, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Senator from New York, at a street corner rally in lower Manhattan. Part of the meeting was televised by a local station.

“One point I always make,” he said, “is the defense of the Cuban revolution. Many find themselves agreeing with me as to the right of the Cubans to make a socialist revolution.

“The mere fact that most of them do not favor what the newspapers have been screaming for is an indication of the basic decency of the mass of the American people. They don’t know the truth about Cuba, but they sense there is something fishy about what they are being told.”



October 16, 1937

The address on the international situation, delivered by President Roosevelt is the first grand-sale step in the mobilization of public opinion in the United States for the coming war.

It means that the outstanding spokesman of United States capitalism, concluding from his analysis of the world crisis that the war is inevitable, and recognizing that the United States must necessarily take part in it, has charted his firm and direct course toward entry and participation in the manner and on the terms that will yield the most fruitful results for the American bourgeoisie.

Roosevelt announced that the most favorable area for United States imperialist expansion—and expansion already begun on a serious scale—is the Far East; and that the United States is prepared to defend its rights of exploitation in the Far East against the challenge of Japan and of any or all other powers.



# Pussy Riot prisoners remain defiant in free speech battle

BY EMMA JOHNSON

As the appeal hearing of the three jailed members of Russian punk rock group Pussy Riot approaches, interviews in the international media show them defiant and unbroken in their criticism of the government and defense of free speech.

Maria Alyokhina, 24, Yekaterina Samutsevich, 30, and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, 22, were arrested March 3. On Aug. 17 they were found guilty of “hooliganism motivated by religious hatred” and sentenced to two years in jail. This was after performing a “punk prayer” in the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of Christ in Moscow Feb. 21, asking the Virgin Mary “to drive [President Vladimir] Putin away.” The three are now in prison, kept in separate cells.

Their appeal hearing set for Oct. 1 was postponed at the request of Samutsevich. She told the court she no longer wanted to be represented by the team of lawyers she has had until now and needed time to get new representation. The date for the hearing is now set for Oct. 10.

The November issue of *GQ* magazine features interviews with Tolokonnikova and Alyokhina. The London *Guardian* ran an interview with Samutsevich Aug. 27. In both cases the questions were slipped in with their lawyers. Samutsevich’s answers to *GQ* were confiscated.

Samutsevich says that jail time doesn’t scare them. “The evil plan of our authorities, to jail us so as to break us and sour us, has already failed miserably.”

Asked what is “more useful for the progressive movement in Russia right

now: Pussy Riot at large or Pussy Riot in jail?” Alyokhina answered, “At large, of course.” But then she continues, “We couldn’t even imagine that the authorities would be so dumb that they would actually legitimize our influence by arresting us. Sure, they tried to intimidate us constantly. But unlike Putin, we’re not chickenshit.”

Before the church incident that got them arrested Pussy Riot performed at many other venues, including one near the Kremlin, where they played a song titled “Riot in Russia—Putin Is Chickenshit.”

“The church performance was a perfect opportunity for Putin’s apparatchiks to claim that our motives were religious intolerance and not political protest,” Tolokonnikova explains in her interview. “This way our persecution could be framed as a



From left, Yekaterina Samutsevich, Maria Alyokhina and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, of feminist punk band Pussy Riot during Moscow trial last summer. Jail won’t “break us,” they say.

righteous burning of blasphemers, as opposed to just stifling free speech.”

In attempts to close down political space and freedom of expression, Putin’s government has signed “defamation” laws and increased fines for participation in “unsanctioned” dem-

onstrations.

A blasphemy bill was introduced Sept. 26 by deputies from the four parties in the Russian parliament, the Duma, proposing a fine of \$9,600 or a three-year jail sentence for “insulting the religious feelings of others.”

## New Quebec gov’t backs off tuition raise, curb on rights

BY MICHEL DUGRÉ

MONTREAL—The newly elected Parti Quebecois government announced Sept. 20 its decision to cancel two measures adopted by the previous Liberal government: an 82 percent increase in university tuition fees over seven years from the current \$2,168, and the section of emergency Law 78 restricting the right to demonstrate.

This is an important victory for working people and the hundreds of thousands of students and supporters who mobilized for months throughout Quebec against both measures, including the more than 4,000 who were arrested. At times well over 150,000

students boycotted classes across the province.

The bourgeois nationalist PQ did win a narrow victory in the Sept. 4 provincial election against the incumbent Liberal Party, but fell short of a majority.

Two other parties shared the rest of the vote: Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ), a new bourgeois party led by an ex-PQ minister that rejects Quebec sovereignty, and Québec Solidaire, a petty-bourgeois formation with a social democratic program.

With the election of a minority government, Quebec’s rulers face the prospect of a paralyzed legislature at a time of deepening economic crisis. They are not confident that the PQ will take the steps they are looking for to push back the social gains

and rights working people have won in past battles, including against the national oppression of the French-speaking Quebecois majority.

This was expressed quite bluntly by the *Globe and Mail*, Canada’s national daily, in an editorial published a few days before the election.

“A Parti Quebecois victory would be very bad for both Quebec and the rest of Canada,” the *Globe* wrote. “The PQ’s financial projections are irresponsible, from keeping electricity rates, daycare fees and tuition low, to creating disincentives for entrepreneurship, to a big tax bite for the rich.”

*Michel Dugré was the Communist League candidate in the Quebec election, running in the Laurier-Dorion electoral constituency in Montreal.*

## Cuban Five campaign reaches Indonesia



Above, Militant/Baskaran Appu.

JAKARTA, Indonesia—More than 30 people gathered at the Cuban Embassy here Sept. 18 to hear Enna Viant Valdés (inset), the Cuban ambassador to Indonesia, speak about the Cuban Revolution and the international campaign to free the Cuban Five.

The meeting, conducted in English and Bahasa Indonesia, included students and teachers from three universities, as well as members of the Indonesia-Cuba Friendship Association and of Kalyanamitra, a women’s foundation based here.

Students at Budi Luhur University enlivened the discussion with questions about the case of the five. Armed with a new copy of the booklet, *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were framed, Why They Should Be Free*, they expressed enthusiasm for organizing an event to build support for the five on their campus.

The five Cuban revolutionaries—Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González—have been in U.S. custody since they were arrested and framed up in 1998.

—LINDA HARRIS

## China workers clash with guards

Continued from front page  
three in serious condition.

“The guards here use gangster style to manage,” 23-year-old Fang Zhongyang told Bloomberg News Sept. 27. “We are not against following rules, but you have to tell us why. They won’t explain things and we feel like we cannot communicate with them.”

“Foxconn, some supervisors and security guards never respect us,” another worker said to the Associated Press.

This confrontation comes just months after a March protest by workers at the plant against harassment by security guards, long hours and work regulations.

Foxconn, the largest contract electronics manufacturer in the world, employs some 1.2 million workers in facilities throughout China. Its flagship factory in Shenzhen in the south has more than 250,000 workers. The company says the site in Zhengzhou in central China might eventually employ 300,000. Many plants are moving inland where wages are lower than China’s manufacturing hub along its eastern coast.

Foxconn has a record of desperate acts of resistance by workers over the last couple years. In 2010, 18 workers jumped from a factory roof; 14 died.

In May 2011 three workers died and 15 were injured from a blast. In January this year 150 workers threatened to jump to their deaths if demands for improved working conditions were not met.

Strikes, skirmishes and other actions have led to increased wages at Foxconn plants throughout the country. In August, monthly full-time wages at the Taiyuan plant rose from \$250 to \$290. Many factories in China pay only minimum wage, around \$200 a month.

The Taiyuan factory loses 400 to 500 workers on an average workday. It usually hires 500 to 700 new workers each day and still has to borrow from Shenzhen and other plants to keep up with demand. The average age of the workers is 20 years old.

China Labor Watch issued a report in June from an investigation into 10 Apple suppliers in China, among them Foxconn’s Shenzhen site.

The workday is generally 11 hours with two half-hour breaks. In peak periods overtime averages five to six hours per day seven days a week. Employees often work several months without a day off.

Apple expects to make \$442 in profit per 16 GB iPhone5.



# Three-day Toronto tribunal: ‘Free the Cuban Five now!’

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

TORONTO—“The case of the Cuban Five is a political case like that of Nelson Mandela and the Puerto Rican independence fighters,” Elizabeth Palmeiro, wife of Ramón Labañino, one of the five, told participants at the opening ceremony of the “Peoples’ Tribunal and Assembly.” The ceremony was held Sept. 21 at the Steelworkers hall here.

Some 250 people turned out for the public three-day event, called to broaden support for the fight to free Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González. Among the participants were trade unionists, political activists, writers and journalists, filmmakers, religious figures, prominent lawyers and family members of the five.

The five Cuban revolutionaries were framed up and jailed by the U.S. government more than 14 years ago for carrying out missions from the Cuban government to prevent murderous attacks and provocations by counterrevolutionary Cuban-American groups intent on overthrowing Cuba’s socialist revolution—an aspiration they share with Washington. (See “Who are the Cuban Five” on this page.)

Cuban Ambassador to Canada Teresita de Jesús Vicente Sotolongo welcomed those attending the event. Tony Woodley, the executive officer for Unite—the largest trade union in the United Kingdom—brought “greetings from the British trade-union movement with its 7.5 million members.”

“An injustice of this scope deserves international support,” said Woodley. “We need to keep reaching out to the hundreds and thousands of Leonard Weinglasses, to trade unionists and ordinary workers to free the Cuban Five. I personally won’t rest until they are free.” Weinglass, who died last year, was a prominent attorney who defended the rights of many who became targets of the U.S. government, including the Cuban Five.

“Voices around the world must be heard,” wrote Gerardo Hernández, in a letter from prison read to participants. “The efforts each one of you makes is

important. We count on you to assure our victory.”

A Peoples’ Tribunal was held at the City Hall Council Chambers Sept. 22 where Magistrates of Conscience heard testimony from witnesses who detailed the decades of attacks on Cuba and supporters of the revolution and explained the U.S. government’s frame-up of the five.

Juan Carranza, a lawyer and current president of the Hispanic Development Council, opened the tribunal and introduced the panel of judges. They included Denis Lemelin, national president of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers; Ken Neumann, national director for the United Steelworkers in Canada; Marie Clarke Walker, vice president of the Canadian Labour Congress and an executive member of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Naveen Mehta, general council to the United Food and Commercial Workers union; Cindy Sheehan, anti-war activist from the U.S.; Miguel Barnet, president of the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba; and Wes Elliott, a native leader from the Six Nations, who opened and closed the tribunal’s proceedings.

Witnesses testified on decades of murderous attacks and acts of sabotage that have killed more than 3,400 and seriously injured more than 2,000 Cubans since the overthrow of the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1959. These include the U.S.-organized mercenary invasion at the Bay of Pigs in April 1961; arson attacks on schools, factories and department stores; biological attacks introducing dengue fever that killed more than 150 children in 1981 and thrips palmi insects devastating crops on the island in 1996; and bombings, including of the La Coubre freighter in 1960, Cubana flight 455 in 1976, and hotels in 1997.

Isaac Saney, co-chair for the Canadian Network on Cuba, introduced the first session of the tribunal. It is in the context of a long history of violent attacks on Cuba that “Havana, in a measure of self-defense, sent the Cuban Five to the U.S.,” Saney said. “These five patriots represent the best of what the Cuban

## Gerardo Hernández cartoons tour New Zealand



Rosalee Jenkin

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand—Forty-five people turned out at the Room Four Art Space here Sept. 23 for the opening of “Humor from My Pen,” an exhibition of political

cartoons by Gerardo Hernández, one of five Cuban revolutionaries framed up and imprisoned in the United States for more than 14 years.

Speaking at the opening, Cuban Ambassador to New Zealand María del Carmen Herrera Caseiro said “to understand the story of the Cuban Five you should look at the history of Cuba after 1959 when the revolution triumphed.” She urged everyone to help “break the wall of silence around this case.”

The exhibition will travel to the West Coast to be shown at the Blackball Museum of Working Class History as part of Labour Day celebrations Oct. 22.

—RUTH GRAY

Revolution has produced.”

Saney also drew attention to the fact that 2012 marks the 25th anniversary of the defeat of the invading white supremacist South African army at Cuito Cuanavale in Angola. Three of the Cuban Five—Hernández, Fernando González, and René González—were among more than 370,000 Cuban volunteer combatants who, between 1975 and 1991, helped repel the apartheid forces from Angola.

“The Cuban Five are in jail as a punishment for the Cuban Revolution,” said Keith Bolender, a journalist and author based in Toronto.

Arnold August, an author living in Montreal, described attacks by CIA-trained Cuban counterrevolutionaries carried out in the Montreal and Ottawa areas between 1964 and 1980. These included “an explosion at the trade section of the Cuban delegation in Montreal on April 4, 1972, that killed Sergio Pérez Castillo and left seven people wounded. None of the suspects in these crimes have ever been charged by the courts,” he said.

Later, August also informed the meeting that Canadian Customs officials denied entry to Stan Smith, a member of the Chicago Committee for the Release of the Five on his way to the tribunal. The assembly voted to send a protest note to Ottawa.

Raymundo Navarro, a member of the Cuban Trade Union Federation (CTC) National Secretariat and of Cuba’s National Assembly, spoke about some of the accomplishments of the Cuban Revolution and why the U.S. government fears Cuba’s revolutionary example. “Cuba has the eighth lowest infant mortality rate in the world. The empire 90 miles away has a hard time doing that,” he said.

Navarro also said that “after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, we didn’t abandon the Haitians.” In contrast, Ottawa quickly pulled out its medical personnel and others who were there.

In his testimony, defense attorney Richard Klugh said the Cuban Five legal defense team is pursuing habeas corpus motions for each of the five based on information not available at the time of the trial, including a secret campaign organized by the U.S. government to fund Miami-area journalists, to the tune of millions of dollars, to flood the local media with stories critical of the five between 1998 and 2001. “This was a political conviction, the purpose of which was to prosecute innocent people,” said Klugh. “The U.S. government is prosecuting Cuba’s right to exist.”

Jose Perterra, a lawyer for the Venezuelan government, talked about Caracas’ efforts to extradite CIA-trained Cuban counterrevolutionary

Continued on page 9

## Who are the Cuban Five

Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González are Cuban revolutionaries who during the 1990s accepted assignments from the Cuban government to gather information on the activities of Cuban-American counterrevolutionary groups operating in southern Florida. These paramilitary outfits, organizing on U.S. soil with virtual impunity, have a long record of carrying out bombings, assassinations and other deadly attacks, both against targets in Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution in the United States, Puerto Rico and elsewhere.

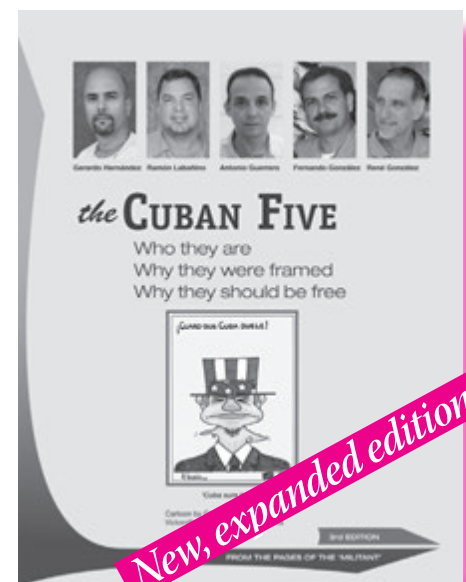
On Sept. 12, 1998, the five were arrested by the FBI. They were framed up and convicted on a variety of charges, which included acting as unregistered agents of the Cuban government and possession of false identity documents. Without a shred of evidence, three were charged with “conspiracy to gather and transmit national defense information.”

Hernández was also convicted of conspiracy to commit murder based on the pretext that he bore responsibility for the Cuban government’s 1996 shoot-down of two aircraft flown by the counterrevolutionary group Brothers to the Rescue that had invaded Cuban airspace in disregard of Havana’s repeated warnings. He is serving two life terms plus 15 years.

All but René González remain in prison. Since October he has been serving a three-year “supervised release.” On the pretext of his dual citizenship, he has been denied his request to return to Cuba. His wife, Olga Salanueva, is barred from entering the United States, as is Adriana Pérez, the wife of Hernández.

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# Political prisoner Mark Curtis on class struggle behind bars

*Below is an excerpt from A Packinghouse Worker's Fight for Justice: The Mark Curtis Story by Naomi Craine, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for October. The book relates the eight-year battle to defeat the frame-up of Mark Curtis, a union activist and member of the Socialist Workers Party sentenced in 1988 to 25 years in prison on trumped-up charges of attempted rape and burglary. Curtis was released in 1996. Copyright © 1996 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

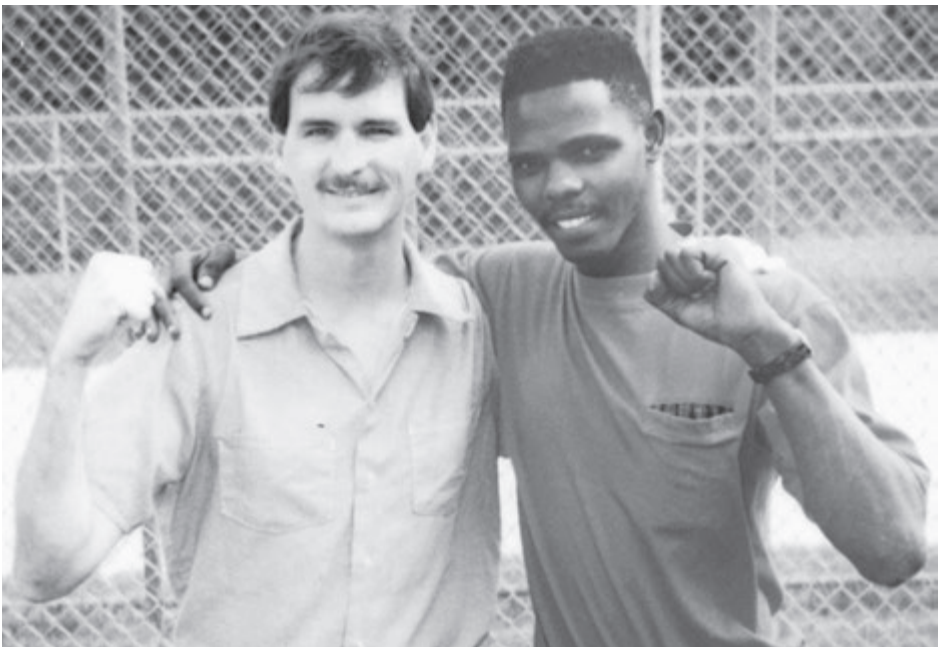
## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY NAOMI CRAINE

“The schools and big-business media, the politicians, and the churches teach people to look at prisoners as scum of the earth. But we’re almost all working-class people, human beings with an interest in fighting for human rights,” said Mark Curtis, explaining what a socialist worker does behind bars. “We have common interests, and the only way we’re going to protect our rights is by our actions and our unity.”

Sitting in the visiting yard of the John Bennett Correctional Center at the state penitentiary in Fort Madison, Iowa, in the summer of 1993, Curtis described the many people he had met in prison since beginning to serve his time in late 1988.

“I’ve met meatpackers and truck



Mark Curtis, left, and Andile Yawa, from African National Congress Youth League, at John Bennett Correctional Center in Fort Madison, Iowa, in 1992. “That visit was a big thing,” said Curtis. “Other inmates asked me to pass along questions about the struggle in South Africa.”

drivers, some who’ve been involved in union fights,” he said. “There are veterans from [the U.S. wars in] Panama and Vietnam, and many people who’ve been touched by the civil rights movement.” ...

Curtis explained one of the biggest challenges prisoners face is that “we have to keep in contact with the outside.”

This isn’t easy. The prison system is designed to cut inmates off from the rest of the world and discourage them from looking beyond the prison walls to broader struggles.

Soon after his conviction, Curtis ran into some of the hundreds of rules and regulations used to accomplish this when the administration at the Iowa State Men’s Reformatory in Anamosa refused to allow him to receive literature and letters in languages other than English. ...

The defense committee helped mount a campaign against the language rule. The prison warden was flooded with hundreds of letters protesting prison officials’ refusal to allow Curtis to get the Spanish-language material. The fight was covered in Iowa newspapers, and eventually the administration backed off and allowed him to receive the literature. ...

From within the prison walls, Curtis “tried to participate in different battles in the class struggle,” mostly through

the mail. The jailed unionist sent letters of support to machinists on strike against Eastern Airlines, coal miners in Britain, the United Farm Workers of Washington State, striking steelworkers at Trinity Industries in Bessemer, Alabama, and others. Curtis also wrote to victims of police brutality and political prisoners around the world. ...

Visits from other political fighters are part of how Curtis kept in touch with the rest of the world. In 1992, for example, he met with Andile Yawa, a leader of the African National Congress Youth League. “That visit was a big thing. Other inmates asked me to pass along questions about the struggle in South Africa, and some still ask me what’s happening there.” ...

In the 1993 interview, Curtis described a typical day for him in prison: “I work full time in the printshop here” for about fifty cents an hour. “After work I exercise, spend time talking with people, have dinner. In the evening I do a lot of reading. And I set aside time to study Spanish.” He pointed to how Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, James P. Cannon, and other revolutionary leaders who have gone to prison used that time to study and learn. ...

Soon after his incarceration at the Anamosa prison, Curtis joined the Martin Luther King Jr. Organization, a group of “inmates interested in the civil

rights movement and fighting for better conditions in prison,” as he put it. ...

Curtis described the first meeting of the organization he attended in January 1989. “They had an open microphone. The bombing of Libya [by the U.S. military] had happened not long before. So I spoke about that, about how Martin Luther King had spoken against the U.S. war in Vietnam, and about how the fight against racism has to be tied to events in the world. I got a very good response.” The group brought in outside speakers and kept a library of political books. ...

Prisoners have the same kinds of discussions about politics and world events as workers in a packinghouse or auto factory, Curtis noted. Leading up to the Gulf War in late 1990 and early 1991, for instance, “there was a lot of sentiment against the build-up.” Several inmates signed a letter to the *Des Moines Register* opposing Washington’s war moves. Once the bombing started in mid-January and U.S. troops were engaged in combat, he said, most prisoners shifted to a position of support, albeit grudging, for the U.S. war. ...

Curtis also had numerous discussions with other inmates about the U.S. government’s embargo against Cuba. ...

Curtis wrote in the *Militant* about many of the discussions and struggles at the prisons where he’s been. He and John Flowers, who is Sioux, wrote about the fight of Native American inmates in Anamosa to be allowed to practice their religion and culture. ...

Other prisoners at Fort Madison had various views about Curtis’s defense campaign. “A lot of people are interested,” Curtis said. “They like to see someone fighting back against the type of railroading that happened to me. When I won my lawsuit against the cops who beat me, they really liked that.

“Not everyone supports me, because of the nature of the [sexual abuse] charge,” he added. “There are people who believe whatever the state says someone did. And some people don’t like me being a communist. But most people judge you by what you do—if you take the inmates’ side, join in fights, and stand up for what you believe, people respect you.”

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8 The Militant October 15, 2012



# Broaden fight to free Cuban Five!

The potential to win more and more workers, youth and others to support the fight to free Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, and René González—and the Cuban Revolution they were acting to protect—is greater than ever today.

The assault on the wages, working conditions, job prospects, rights, freedom and very dignity of working people makes them more open to challenging the U.S. government’s unremitting hostility toward Cuba and more able to identify with the fight against Washington’s frame-up and treatment of the five.

The Cuban men and women who made the revolution, and the younger generations who today join them in defending and fighting to advance it, refuse to bend their knees to U.S. imperialism.

The five came to the U.S. to monitor counterrevolutionary Cuban-American groups that have a decades-long record of carrying out assaults on Cuba and supporters of Cuba’s socialist revolution. For this “crime” they remain steadfastly unrepentant.

The revolutionary course of Cuba’s toilers is an example for workers and farmers worldwide—in standing up to the ravages of the capitalist exploiters, building a movement to wrest political power out of the bosses’ hands, and gaining confidence in our capacities to transform ourselves and all of soci-

ety through struggle.

By no choice of their own the Cuban Five, as they are known internationally, are on the front lines of the class struggle in the U.S. today. Railroaded to prison by the U.S. rulers, they join the 2.3 million workers currently jailed and nearly 5 million more on probation or parole, disproportionately Black, who have been run through the “capitalist justice system.”

The road to freedom for the five is through a relentless campaign to expand knowledge of and support for their fight. As the rulers deepen their assaults on working people across the globe over the coming years, they will fuel resistance that can change the relationship of class forces. These battles will build what Gerardo Hernández rightly described as the “jury of millions that will make our truth be known.”

The *Militant* is organizing a big campaign for readers to go out and win new subscribers to the paper, along with selling at discounted prices four books by Pathfinder Press, including *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free* and *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*.

Join in this campaign and help the *Militant* advance the defense of the Cuban Revolution and the Cuban Five.

# Toronto tribunal builds support for Cuban 5

Continued from page 7

Luis Posada Carriles. Posada is wanted in Venezuela on 73 counts of murder for his role in the 1976 bombing of a Cuban airliner over Barbados in which every passenger was killed, many of them teenage members of the Cuban fencing team. Posada escaped from a Venezuelan prison in 1985 and today freely walks the streets of Miami as a big personality among Cuban-American counterrevolutionaries.

Posada bragged to the *New York Times* in 1998 about his CIA training and involvement in a series of hotel bombings in Havana in 1997.

Also testifying was Livio di Celmo, whose brother Fabio, then living in Montreal, was killed Sept. 4, 1997, in one of those hotel bombings. “The Canadian government did nothing to help the family. Only Cuba responded,” he said in explaining his resolve to back the fight to free the five Cuban revolutionaries.

Referring to Rafael Cancel Miranda, a leader of the fight for Puerto Rican independence who spent 27 years in U.S. prisons, Alicia Jrapko, U.S. national coordinator of the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban Five, said Puerto Rican revolutionaries “could not have been released without people like you.”

Gloria La Riva, coordinator in the U.S. for the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five, outlined the many facets of the government’s frame-up,

including the court’s refusal to move the trial venue out of Miami.

“The U.S. government is responsible for what five Cuban families face today. Their cruel policies were what made the five undertake their mission,” charged Adriana Pérez, wife of Hernández, who like Olga Salanueva, wife of René González, is barred from entering the U.S. to visit her husband in prison.

The tribunal’s panel of judges issued a 12-point ruling concluding the prosecutions and sentences of the five to be “contrary to international and U.S. domestic law, including the U.S. Constitution.” They proposed the five “be set free immediately” through an overturn of their convictions or presidential clemency.

The participation of unions in the fight to free the Cuban 5 was a prominent feature of the weekend’s activities, which included a rally outside the U.S. Consulate Sept. 23. “The trade union movement in Canada has opened its doors” to the campaign to Free the Cuban 5, said Navarro. A letter to the tribunal from the Quebec Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) was read to the gathering.

On the tribunal and assembly’s final day those present participated in workshops aimed to strengthen work to free the Cuban Five. In addition to a letter to U.S. President Barack Obama, the meeting sent a letter to Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper urging him to take action to help free the Cuban Five.

# Gov’t cuts in Greece

Continued from front page

several rounds of cuts in government spending.

Since 2009 the country’s gross domestic product has dropped 25 percent. Wages of public workers have declined by up to 40 percent over the past two years, reported Agence France-Presse. And the official unemployment rate for youth under 25 has risen to 55 percent—up 11 percent from a year ago—the highest in the European Union.

The latest figures indicate that nearly all 17 countries of the eurozone trade and currency bloc are officially in recession, as defined by two consecutive quarters of declining gross domestic product. According to preliminary reports, this likely includes Germany, which has relatively low unemployment levels but faces declining exports.

At the heart of the deepening crisis in Europe is a slowdown in production, trade and employment across the globe. The World Trade Organization expects trade worldwide to expand by only 2.5 percent this year, down from 5 percent last year and 14 percent in 2010.

Unable to do anything to reverse the economic slowdown, the rulers in Europe are moving to postpone the related crisis building up in banking and government finance.

The European Central Bank has lowered its interest rate to close to zero and poured more than \$1 trillion into bailing out banks and governments to stave off banking collapses and government defaults that threaten to tear the eurozone apart. The scheme, like moves over the last couple years by the U.S. Federal Reserve, amounts to printing money in hopes of spurring economic activity, as well as lowering the currency’s relative value to make exports from eurozone countries cheaper and more competitive on the world market. And like the Fed’s scheme, it is “having little impact,” notes the *Wall Street Journal*.

In early September European Central Bank President Mario Draghi announced that the bank will begin buying unlimited amounts of short-term government bonds from heavily indebted countries, such as Spain and Italy, to allow them to continue making payments to holders of government debt. The deals are contingent on agreement to impose more rounds of “austerity” measures under supervision of the troika.

## One-day strike in Greece

The one-day strike in Greece Sept. 26 was called by the General Confederation of Greek workers (GSEE), which organizes private sector workers; ADEDY, the union of public workers; and the Communist Party-backed union PAME.

Syriza party leader Alexis Tsipras addressed the Athens rally. According to the *Journal*, a poll released in early September shows that if elections were held today Syriza—the Coalition of the Radical Left—would win. Golden Dawn, the ultrarightist party that has been organizing physical assaults against immigrants would be the third largest party with 12 percent of the vote—up from 6.9 percent in the June election—surpassing the Socialist Party.

The day after the protest the Greek cabinet approved its latest round of austerity measures. The \$17.4 billion package of cuts and tax increases targets pensions, wages and jobs. It includes raising the retirement age to 67 from 65, cutting pensions and slashing 15,000 public sector jobs as part of a plan to cut 150,000 government workers by 2015. The plan must be approved by the troika before the Greek parliament can even discuss it.

In Spain, tens of thousands rallied in Madrid Sept. 15 in response to the government’s latest budget plan to cut jobs and benefits. The action comes four days after a protest in Barcelona of some 1.5 million. Spain’s official unemployment rate is nearly 25 percent with more than half of workers under 25 jobless.

In Portugal, 500,000 people joined nationwide protests Sept. 15, according to organizers, to oppose a government plan that includes raising workers’ social security taxes by the equivalent of one month’s wages.

*Bobbis Misailides from Athens, Greece, contributed to this article.*

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